

# Seas At Risk's members



## International members



## Seas At Risk

Seas At Risk is an association of environmental organisations from across Europe, working together to ensure that life in our seas and ocean is abundant, diverse, climate resilient, and not threatened by human activities. Our mission is to promote ambitious policies for marine protection at European and international level. With over 30 members representing the majority of European countries, Seas At Risk speaks for millions of citizens that care deeply about the health of the seas and the ocean.

## The ocean matters

The vast majority of the Earth's surface is covered by water, hosting a myriad of marine species. The ocean's currents play a pivotal role in regulating global climate patterns, moderating extreme weather and enhancing the habitability of our planet. The ocean serves as a carbon sink, mitigating climate change by absorbing heat and carbon dioxide. It has also contributed to producing half of the oxygen present in the atmosphere. Beyond its environmental functions, the ocean provides invaluable resources, including medicinal compounds and food for billions of people. The blue economy that manages these precious resources should be run with full respect of planetary boundaries and fundamental social needs, for the wellbeing of people and the planet.

## Systems change

The ocean is not ours to exploit and spoil - it is a vital, living system on which we all depend. That is why we need a just transition to a sustainable blue economy that has ocean health as its core objective, which creates equitable pathways to sustainable industries and quality employment.

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# From challenge to change

Our vision for an ocean teeming with life, sustaining the wellbeing of prosperous communities within ecological limits





# Seas At Risk's vision

## ✓ Renewable energy powers Europe

- Renewable energy respects ecosystems and wind farms are placed outside protected areas.
- The transition to 100% renewables includes strong measures for reduction of energy use.

## ✓ Clean, green, zero-pollution shipping supports a thriving future

- Energy-efficient ships use wind propulsion and smart tech to achieve effective and least-cost decarbonisation of shipping.
- Slower, quieter, less polluting ships help ocean life recover and thrive.

## ✓ Fishing has a low impact on the ocean and provides quality employment

- Fishing quotas take into account impact on all marine life, supporting the wellbeing of coastal communities.
- Fish are caught selectively and seasonally, respecting nature cycles and the livelihoods of fishers.
- EU fisheries transition to low-impact models, prioritising small-scale fisheries contributing to thriving coastal communities.

# State of play

## ✗ Conventional shipping is a threat to ocean life and the climate

- Inefficient fossil fuelled ships contribute to global warming and harm human health.
- Plastic, oil, chemical and underwater noise pollution from ships, and collisions with wildlife, undermine ocean health.

## ✗ Plastic production and pollution are surging

- Plastic, including microplastic and single-use plastic, pollute even the most pristine corners of the ocean.
- Plastic and its toxic additives are harmful to humans, ecosystems, food webs, and wildlife.

## ✗ Deep-sea mining threatens the ocean

- Deep-sea mining would destroy unique and fragile ecosystems, many of which we have yet to explore.
- In the EU, only 8.3% of critical raw minerals from end-of-life products are recycled.

## ✓ The ocean is clean and safe

- Strong measures prevent plastic and chemical pollution.
- Products are made toxin-free.

## ✓ The ocean is teeming with life

- Ecosystems and marine life are thriving and help mitigate climate change.
- Damaging activities are stopped in Marine Protected Areas.
- At least 30% of EU seas become effectively managed Marine Protected Areas, with all human activities banned in 10% of them.

## ✓ Europe has a flourishing circular economy, with no resources extracted from the deep sea

- Products are durable, repairable and recyclable, and local value chains are prioritised.
- Minerals are kept in the seabed.
- The deep sea continues to store carbon, mitigate climate change, and support rich biodiversity.

## ✓ Sufficiency promotes wellbeing

- EU consumption and production do not exceed planetary boundaries.
- Jobs in the blue economy support regeneration of ocean life and workers are adequately paid.

## ✗ Fishing is the main cause of marine biodiversity loss

- Fish populations in the EU have collapsed due to overfishing.
- Fishing quotas disregard ecosystem impact and social implications.

## ✗ Biodiversity in the ocean is disappearing at an even faster pace than on land

- 90% of large marine predators have disappeared.
- Destructive fishing leads to dolphins, turtles and other marine life being incidentally caught in fishing nets and discarded, dead or injured.
- Bottom trawling destroys marine life and releases carbon from the ocean floor contributing to climate change.

## ✗ Fossil fuels burn the planet

- The extraction and burning of fossil fuels harm marine ecosystems and exacerbate climate change.

## ✗ Overconsumption fuels inequalities

- Europe uses more than its fair share of the planet's resources, having a huge ecological footprint and worsening inequalities.
- Marginalised and disadvantaged communities bear the burden of environmental and social injustices.